

Message Text

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ACTION NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 NEA-11 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20
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/155 W

-----090954 240418Z /16

R 231821Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6730
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
DOE WASHDC
DOE GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10013

USEEC

VIENNA FOR USIAEA
DEPT. FOR NRC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, US, EEC
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM
-- CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS MAY 18

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE SEMI-WEEKLY BRUSSELS NEWSBULLETIN,
EUROPEAN REPORT, BY MARIAN BYWATER WHO IS ALSO BRUSSELS
CORRESPONDENT FOR NUCLEONICS WEEK, INDICATED THAT THERE
WAS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE US NUCLEAR NON-
PROLIFERATION ACT OF 1978 DURING THE MAY 18 MEETING OF
THE ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS. THIS
FOLLOWED A PRESENTATION BY NRC COMMISSIONER RICHARD
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KENNEDY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, MR. MATSUMOTO OF THE
JAPANESE ATOMIC FORUM STRESSED THAT US NON-PROLIFERATION
POLICY IS NOT JUST UNPOPULAR IN THE EC, BUT COULD ALSO
BE UNDERMINING THE WHOLE JAPANESE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY.

3. JOSE LUIS SANCHES OF NUCLENOR IN SPAIN REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED BECAUSE THE US HAS INFORMED SPAIN THAT IT WILL HAVE TO RENEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE 40-YEAR SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT WITH THE US WHICH WAS CONCLUDED IN 1974. THIS DEMAND WAS RESULTING IN "TOTAL LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE AGREEMENT ALREADY SIGNED". HE WAS QUOTED AS ALSO SAYING THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT "TO UNDERSTAND HOW AN ATTEMPT CAN BE MADE TO MODIFY UNILATERALLY AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED AND RATIFIED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES" ON THE PRETEXT OF A CLEARLY INTERNAL LAW, AND THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF COERCIVE MEASURES IN THE EVENT THE SPANISH REJECT THE REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE IS HARD TO CONTEMPLATE. SANCHES ADDED THAT THE US HAS BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SPANISH VULNERABILITY AND DEPENDENCE IN ORDER TO BREAK QUALITY AND DELIVERY OBLIGATIONS AND HAD USED "COERCION AND EVEN BLACKMAIL IN EFFORTS TO INCREASE CONTRACTED PRICES."

4. REGARDING THE US REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE ITS NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH EURATOM, WERNER BOULANGER OF THE GERMAN RESEARCH MINISTRY IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT "SOONER OR LATER" THERE WILL FINALLY BE AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE EC MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. HE REGRETTED THAT THE ACT WAS PROVING A SOURCE OF CONFLICT AND CAUSING "DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS UNDESIRABLE TENSIONS BETWEEN EURATOM AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE US. ALTHOUGH TOO EARLY TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS, HE THOUGHT IT WAS A HOPEFUL SIGN THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD OVERRULED THE NRC TO APPROVE EXPORTS OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM TO INDIA. BOULANGER REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CONGRESS WILL USE ITS RIGHT OF VETO ON THE INDIAN CASE AND THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS IN THE COMMUNITY HOPE THAT THE US-EURATOM ROW WILL BE GOTTEN AROUND BY CARTER OVERRULING THE NRC IN A SIMILAR FASHION.

5. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, FRENCH INDUSTRY SOURCES SAW NO SOFTENING IN THE FRENCH GAME OF BRINKSMANSHIP WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION. THE ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT FRANCE IS BEST PLACED TO HOLD OUT IN REGARDS TO RENEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES SINCE IT IS WELL ON THE WAY TO SELF SUFFICIENCY IN NATURAL URANIUM, URANIUM ENRICHMENT, HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AND PLUTONIUM AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO GIVE OTHER EC STATES ACCESS TO ITS SPARE NUCLEAR CAPACITY--BUT AT A PRICE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE CONCEDED THAT THE LONGER THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE US DEMAND, THE LESS LEVERAGE THE US WILL HAVE BECAUSE THE EC IS LIKELY TO BE TOTALLY SELF SUFFICIENT IN LOW-ENRICHED

URANIUM FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION BY 1982/83. STOCK-PILES ARE PROBABLY SUFFICIENT FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD. THE REAL PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENT IN THE ARTICLE, IS LIKELY TO BE IN REGARD TO HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR RESEARCH REACTORS. HINTON

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